

**UNAPPROVED MINUTES
CITY OF MILPITAS
SISTER CITIES COMMISSION**

Minutes: Regular Meeting of Sister Cities Commission (SCC)
Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 24, 2003
Place of Meeting: Milpitas City Hall, 455 E. Calaveras Blvd., Committee Conference Room

I. Roll Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Commissioners/Alternates Present: Downey, Garcia, Iringan, Lind, Swiger
Commissioners/Alternates Absent: Arthur, Chahal, Grilli
City Council Liaison Present: Bob Livengood
MUSD Liaison Absent: Mike Mendizabal

II. Alternates Alternate Downey was seated.

III. Pledge Chair Garcia led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Minutes **MOTION** to approve the Minutes of June 26, 2003 with noted correction of commission member Swiger's name under Item 1, page 2.

M/S: Lind/Iringan Ayes: All

V. Agenda **MOTION** to approve the July 24, 2003 agenda.

M/S: Lind/Iringan Ayes: All

VI. Announcements/Correspondence

Chair Garcia announced alternate commissioner Tsao's resignation from the commission due to an automobile accident. Staff distributed correspondence from Ms. Tsao noting her positive experience on the commission.

Staff distributed a copy of a June 16 letter to Mayor Esteves, including copies of subsequent letters to staff, from the Shenyang City, China, indicating their interest in a sister city relationship with Milpitas.

VII. Citizen's Forum

Gunawan Alisantosa, 1 2290 Glenview Drive. Invited the commission to the Hillview Estates Annual Neighborhood picnic on August 2nd at Hillcrest Park.

Walter Chen Ph.D., Shenyang New City Representative office, 400 Ellington Ave., S.F. 94112. Mr. Chen provided information and spoke in support of a sister city relationship

with Shenyang. He had just visited Shenyang which has a population of 7.2 million. Major industries include electronics, biopharmaceutical, food and beverage, and construction. They are interested in establishing a Transpacific Trade Center.

Staff responded that this inquiry is referred to the Milpitas Economic Development Commission and provided business cards for the staff liaisons. Mr. Chen's information will be forwarded to those contacts.

VIII. Old Business

1. APPLICATION FOR SISTER CITIES RELATIONSHIP: HUIZHOU, CHINA

Francis Chien addressed the commission and distributed contact information for the recently formed Huizhou-Milpitas Sister City Committee. The committee includes Milpitas residents and business people. Mr. Chien introduced several residents that were in attendance who will participate on the committee, including Mr. Chen, owner of the House of Ruyi restaurant in Milpitas; Mr. Wong, a Milpitas resident for seven years; and Eileen Chen with Suncrest, Inc. Mr. Chien will be leaving for Huizhou on July 29th and will return with information from its Mayor.

Sean Liou 35156 King Court, Fremont, spoke again in support of the relationship.

Mr. Alisantosa stated that he is impressed that this committee has moved so quickly, and was pleased with the receipt of the letter from Huizhou. They are working so that the costs associated with the program are not a burden on the taxpayer. This relationship will promote friendship and peace and be a great cultural exchange.

Chair Garcia: Concern was to see a core group of citizens from Milpitas that would support coordination, housing and events, etc., which is shown with this committee listing. A sister city relationship is a rewarding yet time consuming relationship. A grassroots group is the most important part of the relationship.

Lind: Reinforced the understanding that this commission will decide whether or not to make a recommendation to the City Council, but the City Council will make the ultimate determination.

Swiger: Noted that he was at first apprehensive about the size of Huizhou. However, this group has completed everything asked by the commission. He is in favor of a 2-year agreement.

Iringan: Stated he supports the establishment of a sister city relationship with Huizhou.

MOTION: Approve formal recommendation to the City Council of a 2-year sister city relationship with Huizhou.

M/S: Swiger /Iringan Ayes: Garcia, Downey, Iringan, Swiger Noes: Lind

Discussion followed with the commission directing staff to facilitate a draft MOU with Mr. Chien and Huizhou representatives. Staff will work to bring a draft MOU back to the commission to review in August before presentation to City Council. The draft is to be reviewed and accepted by Huizhou City officials.

Swiger: Suggested that staff create general terms to work on more details at the next commission meeting.

Livengood: The commission will need to follow a two-step process. After their initial research, the commission can make a recommendation to the City Council for a sister city relationship with Huizhou that could include a boilerplate document (MOU) or a document with more detail. The City Council would like to see a vision from the commission. Also, a two-year agreement needs to have a program laid out for each year with parameters.

Swiger: The commission should consider the initial MOU with Kukizaki and how it evolved over time to determine appropriate MOU language in its recommendation to the City Council.

Mr. Chien thanked the commission for its recommendation and stated he looks forwarding to coordinating the MOU with staff from both cities.

Per consensus of the commission, this item will be discussed further during the August meeting.

2. DAGUPAN RELATIONSHIP: SCC POINT OF CONTACT & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Commission member Iringan volunteered to be the commission's main contact with the Dagupan City Association of Northern California (DCANC) representatives. Commissioner Iringan distributed contact information for DCANC and noted that this list includes contacts in Dagupan and Milpitas.

Discussion followed regarding commission's responsibility to track development of this relationship for evaluation and report to the City Council. Iringan requested that staff write a letter from him to Dagupan City Administrator Rafael Baraan. Purpose is to introduce Iringan as the commission's point of contact, refer to the two-year MOU, and provide a reminder to inform the commission (i.e. Commissioner Iringan) of events. By consensus, the commission agreed this to be an ongoing agenda item.

3. STATUS REPORT: ONE-YEAR EXTENSION, MILPITAS/TSUKUBA MOU, AUG. 2003 – AUG. 2004

The City Council approved the final draft of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at its June 3, 2003 session. In mid-June, three originals were sent to Tsukuba, and the commission has not received the two original signature sets yet. Chair Garcia will follow-up to request return of the two signed MOUs.

IX. CITY COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT

No report.

X. Future Agenda Items

1. Milpitas/Tsukuba cultural exchanges (August)
2. Recommended Sister Cities Relationship: Huizhou, China (August)
3. Dagupan Relationship: SCC Point of Contact & Additional Info (August)
4. Application for Sister Cities Relationship: Tianjin, China (TBA)
5. General calendar/procedures checklist for preparing cultural exchanges (TBA)
6. Discussion with Sister City Association representative (TBA)

XII. Adjournment

No further business was discussed with the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled meeting, Thursday, August 28, 2003.

M/S Swiger /Lind Ayes: All

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Cuciz
Recording Secretary

Leslie Stobbe
Staff Liaison